

Peace and Security



What this topic covers

People everywhere in the world should have a right to feel safe and at peace in their communities. Peace and security are needed for societies to thrive and for countries to develop. This module will explore why it is important for young people to understand what peace and security means and how it impacts us all.

By the end of this topic you will have prepared for dialogue with your peers by:



Global Communication

Sharing about what peace and security mean to you.



Active Listening

Listening to other peoples experiences about how they think and feel about peace and security and give feedback about what you have heard.



Asking Questions

Constructing questions that seek deeper understanding to learn about the different ideas of peace and security.



Reflection

Reflecting on what you learned in the dialogue about how young people can respond to peace and security in their communities and ways you are inspired to act.

This learning module on average takes around 20 to 30 minutes to complete

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What is the meaning of peace?





Watch this video about how some global leaders define peace. While you are viewing it, think about your own definition for peace.

What is the meaning of peace?

Source: Generation Global



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What is the meaning of peace?



What does peace mean to you?

Thinking about the different ways in which peace was defined in the video, share below about your experience with the topic and what this means for you.

Enter your thoughts here...

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Causes and Impacts



Children and young people have the right to grow up safely. Presently, diverse global threats pose a challenge to peace and security, from conflicts and war, to gang violence and violent extremism. Read these scenarios to learn more.

GANG VIOLENCE

WHAT IS IT?

When referencing peace and security, the term gang refers to a group of people who share a common identity and engage in criminal behaviour. Members use violence or intimidation to further the groups criminal objectives, causing communities to live in fear and to feel unsafe. People fear that their families, schools, or businesses, will become victims of violence caused by gang activity.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Young people are at risk of joining gangs either by peer pressure, looking for a sense of connection, or as an escape to their situation at home. While being part of a gang, youth are exposed to violence, drugs and alcohol, age-inappropriate sexual behaviour and might experience trouble finding a job because of lack of education and work skills, removal from one's family, imprisonment and even death. (American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, 2017)

Sources:
 • American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (2017). "Gangs and children". Available at: https://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF_Guide/Children-and-Gangs-098.aspx
 • Photo by Maarten van den Heuvel on Unsplash. Available at: <https://unsplash.com/photos/WjR0z2W5a>

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CONFLICT

WHAT IS IT?

Conflict refers to the use of armed force by one party against another, causing violence, destruction and distressing experiences to those involved including innocent civilians. Conflicts can happen between countries or within a country.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Conflicts cause a wide range of consequences: destruction, displacement, loss of home and family members, and access to education, health services and proper living conditions. Conflict also threatens mental health causing long-term effects. "Children and youth also suffer from other consequences of conflict such as poverty, unemployment, poor governance and the disintegration of families and communities. Young people living in conflict areas are uniquely vulnerable to recruitment". (United Nations Youth, n.d.)

Sources:
 • United Nations Youth (2018). "Youth and Armed Conflict". Available at: <https://www.un.org/ru/ndocuments/youth/youth-armed-conflict.pdf>
 • Photo by ANICA Vignati on Pexels. Available at: <https://www.pexels.com/fr-fr/photo-de-la-ruine-en-lin-147779/>

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VIOLENT EXTREMISM

WHAT IS IT?

Extremism is when someone or an entire group of people, hold a belief or a system of beliefs that are exaggerated to great lengths, whether religious, ideological or political, and are unwilling to accept anything that is different from their own. Not all people who hold extreme beliefs resort to violence, however, some who are committed to such extreme points of view believe it is their duty to impose their beliefs onto others, even if it's through indoctrination or violence.

WHAT IS THE IMPACT?

Extremism creates an idea that the world is separated into 'them versus us'. This divides communities, and results in polarization, discrimination, exclusion, and violence. When communities are ruled by this level of extremism, those who do not follow this strict set of beliefs are often excluded from public life, victimized, or are displaced from their homes to seek asylum in other regions. (Generation Global, n.d.)

Sources:
 • Generation Global (n.d.) "What is extremism?". Available at: <https://generation-global.com/fr/fr/ressources/what-is-extremism.pdf>
 • Photo Photo by Dmitrii on Unsplash. Available at: <https://unsplash.com/photos/W6GDDy5d4>

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Causes and Impacts



What would you do?

How would you contribute to the conversation when dialoguing with your peers about the causes and impacts regarding peace and security?

A peer shares about their feelings and experiences with conflict.

Thank and acknowledge

Ask a follow up question

Share about your own experiences

Reflect on what you heard

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Causes and Impacts



What would you do?

How would you contribute to the conversation when dialoguing with your peers about the causes and impacts regarding peace and security?

A peer talks about their perspective on the causes of insecurity.

Thank and acknowledge

Ask a follow up question

Share about your own experiences

Reflect on what you have heard

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Causes and Impacts



What would you do?

How would you contribute to the conversation when dialoguing with your peers about the causes and impacts regarding peace and security?

Someone asks what peace means to you.

Thank and acknowledge

Ask a follow up question

Share about your own experiences

Reflect on what you have heard

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Causes and Impacts



What would you do?

How would you contribute to the conversation when dialoguing with your peers about the causes and impacts regarding peace and security?

Someone explains what they think about peace and security, and you disagree.

Thank and acknowledge

Ask a follow up question

Share about your own experiences

Reflect on what you have heard

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Global impact of peace and security



Read this infographic below to learn about the global impact of peace and security.

Global impact of peace and security

Peace and security challenges

1 billion

children globally experience some form of emotional, physical or sexual violence every year; and one child dies as a result of violence every five minutes.

(United Nations, n.d.)

"The global economic impact of violence was \$16.5 trillion in 2021, equivalent to 10.9% of global GDP, or \$2,117 per person."

(Institute for Economics and Peace, 2022)

Peace and security efforts

In 2015, 11,000 young people from over 110 countries adopted resolution 2250 which places youth as agents for peacebuilding efforts.

(UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, 2019)

"The participation of civil society groups, including women's organizations, makes a peace agreement 64% less likely to fail."

(Council on Foreign Relations, 2020)

Sources:
 United Nations (n.d.) "Violence against children". Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/topics/violence-against-children>
 Institute for Economics and Peace (2022) "Global Peace Index 2022". Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-peace-index-2022>
 United Nations Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth (2019) "Peace Processes". Available at: <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/peace-processes/>
 Council on Foreign Relations (2020) "Women's participation in peace processes". Available at: <https://www.cfr.org/womens-participation-in-peace-processes/>

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Global impact of peace and security



How does peace and security in other countries impact us all?

Enter your thoughts here...

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Global impact of peace and security




How does peace and security in other countries impact us all?

Enter your thoughts here...

Being able to understand how an event in one region or country has an effect around the globe raises our awareness about the issue, ways we are connected, and helps us achieve a deeper understanding about why people think and feel the way they do.

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Action for peace and security




Now more than ever, it is important that the world collaborates to make a peaceful and secure place for all. Watch this video from The Global Goals to learn about how one young person, Divina Maloum acted for peace in her own community in Cameroon.

Changemakers: Divina Maloum - Children for Peace

Source: The Global Goals



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Action for peace and security



How has the story of Divina Maloum impacted you?

Reflect on what Divina Maloum has shared regarding her experience of peace and security in Cameroon. From the list below, choose one way her story has inspired you:

It has made me reflect on what I can do in my community to address peace and security.

It has made me value how people advocate and act for peace in my country.

It has inspired me to actively dialogue for peace with my peers and in my community.

It has made me feel curious to learn more about other people's experiences with peacebuilding.

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Well done!



You completed

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Congratulations on completing the module and earning the badge for Peace and security! You now understand the importance of having peace and security to build safe and prosperous societies. You have shared what peace means to you, listened to other people experiences, constructed questions that seek deeper understanding about the impact of peace and security. By practicing these skills, you are becoming a global citizen who can investigate the world's challenges and cooperate with people from all over the globe.


You are now ready to join the dialogue space with your global peers to share your experiences of peace and security and ask them questions to understand their perspectives. Remember, the best way to find new ideas and learn from each other is to openminded and curious!

Continue



Learning: Peace and Security

You have earned the badge about Peace and Security!

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